FINANCE AND TRADE.

SATURDAY EVENING, April 8, 1876.

The close of the week in banking circles was quiet and steady. The loan market continues rather easy, but there is some improvement in the mercantile demand for loans, and while we do not think that a close money market is at all probable it seems likely that there will be more employment for loanable funds in commercial channels during the spring season than has been the case for the past few months. There is one very strong feature in the present business situation, and that is that the business doing is of a healthy nature, and purchasers knowing how closely credits are scrutinized, do not ask for more time than necessary, and only when they feel they can pay at maturity. The disastrous result which has followed closely on the heels of many who have made disreputable failures during the past has had its effect, and merchants are now doing all they can to keep from disaster—whether from honest motives or not we do not pretend to know—and do everything possible to pay their maturing accounts. The payments on old accounts are improving and may be considered fair for the season. The improvement in business during the week is reflected in the Clearing House report which shows an increase in the volume of operations of nearly twenty-five per cent. on the average for March. This report is not of course an exact measure of the amount of business done in commercial circles, but it is a tolerably accurate index of its prosperity. The report for the week ending to-day is as follows:

	Exchanges.	Balances.
Monday	$ 974,146 80	$ 209,078
Tuesday	710,526 62	88,009 12
Wednesday	952,953 71	172,922 40
Thursday	985,549 35	160,782 58
Friday	917,046 37	191,619 21
Saturday	935,754 07	158,816 75
Total for week	$5,086,751 99	$ 987,741 45
Week ending April 1	$4,329,991 65	$ 742,762 80
Week ending March 25	4,927,959 75	852,012 80
Week ending March 18	3,750,152 63	720,721 76
Week ending March 11	4,291,605 11	832,012 80
Week ending March 4	4,167,558 32	765,941 82
Week ending Feb. 26	4,804,630 15	796,016 37
Week ending Feb. 19	4,183,858 17	778,029 35

—New York advices show a continued movement of currency to the interior. The bank statement shows a large decrease in the reserve, the legal tender average alone having fallen $3,018,100. The result of the changes in the bank averages this week is that the surplus reserve is down to $7,035,875, which is $3,960,450 less than last week. The following is the comparison of the averages for the past two weeks:

	April 1.	April 8.	Differences.
Loans	$267,351,200	$264,788,200	Inc. $ 435,000
Specie	23,471,100	20,336,800	Dec. 814,300
Legal Tenders	61,716,500	60,760,100	Dec. 3,045,800
Deposits	211,561,100	207,293,300	Dec. 3,957,800
Circulation	16,394,000	16,297,600	Dec. 64,100

In Wall street to-day gold weakened a trifle, having sold as low as 112 15 16, closing at 113 bid. Stocks were weak and somewhat lower, while Government bonds were somewhat advanced. The closing quotations for gold and Government bonds were as follows:

	Bid.	Asked		Bid.	Asked
6's, 1881, r	121¾	121¾	5-20s, 1868, r	121	121¼
6's, 6-1, c	120¾	120¾	5-20s, 1868, c	121¼	121¾
5-20s, 1865, r	115¾	115¾	10-40s, r	117¾	118
5-20s, 1865, c	115¾	115¾	10-40s, c	117¾	118
5-20s, 1867, r	119¼	119¼	7-8s, 1881, r	118¼	118½
5-20s, 1867, c	119¼	119¼	7-8s, 1881, c	118¼	118½
5-20s, 1868, r	119¾	119¾	7-8s, 1881, c	118¼	118½
5-20s, 1868, c	119¾	119¾	Currency 6's	125½	126
4-20s, 1867, c	121¾	122	Gold	113¼	113¾

—The letter given below has been handed us by one of the city banks for publication. As there is a large amount of Kentucky paper discounted here by the banks, for their coal customers, the opinion expressed is of interest.

The circumstances of the case passed upon are stated to be about as follows: The bank here discounted for a customer a note of C., C. & Co. to the order of G., executed and made payable in Covington, Ky. Maturity the drawers refused to pay, claiming that they had a set-off as against the indorser G. The natural answer of the bank was that being innocent holders of negotiable paper for value, no such defense would be good against them, although it might be good against the payee.

To this the attorneys answer, as follows:

COVINGTON, KY., March 23, 1876.

By our statutes all promissory notes payable and negotiable at any bank incorporated under any law of this Commonwealth or organized in this Commonwealth under any law of the United States which "shall be *indorsed to and discounted* by the bank at which the same is payable, or any other of the banks of this Commonwealth, as above specified, shall be and there are hereby placed on the footing as foreign bills of exchange." Your C., C. & Co. note does not come within the provisions of this statute.

As to notes such as yours there is in Kentucky no such thing as an innocent holder. Any defense which could be set up between the note as between C. C. & Co. and G. can be set up against you, because, simply, you can't shield under an indorsement in Pennsylvania.

There is no such thing known to Kentucky law as an *indorser of a promissory note*. There is in Kentucky an *assignor*.

The points are fully discussed and the law of the case settled in Taylor-& Son vs. Stowell, Chamberlaine & Co., 4, Metcalf, Kentucky 153, which is in every case exactly parallel to your case the note was given for timber, and in the cited case the note was given for lumber—both being realties.

G. purchased the timber in the river with warranty, and he sold to C., C. & Co., with like warranty. The timber proved very much inferior to warranty as G. admits.

Can give no more encouragement as to the Penn sylvania indorsement pacing you upon looking of innocent holders.

Yours truly, etc.,

ATTORNEYS.

—Washington dispatches give the following items concerning the United States Treasury:

The Treasury holds $331,300,000 in bonds to secure bank circulation; decrease for week of $800,000; bonds held to secure public deposit, $18,500,000; circulation unissued, $28,500,000, of which $2,100,000 are gold notes. Receipts from customs, $450,000; for month, to date, $9,250,000; from internal revenue, $1,200,000, including receipts to-day, $600,000; month to date, $3,200,000; fiscal year to date, $41,700,000. Sales of bonds received to-day, $450,000; total for the week, $2,600,000; Treasury shipments of legal tenders and fractional currency for the week, $2,100,000. The amount of national bank notes received at the Treasury for redemption for the week ending to-day, as compared with the corresponding week of last year, is as follows:

	1876.	1875.
New York	$1,585,000	$ 731,000
Boston	316,000	81,000
Philadelphia	112,000	72,000
Chicago	485,000	175,000
Cincinnati	70,000	30,000
Miscellaneous	702,000	829,000
Totals	$3,304,000	$2,068,000

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

April 8, 1876.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
Gold	113¼	113¼	113¼	113	113
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	122¾	122¾			
5-20's, 1865	118¾	118¾			
5-20's, 1865, reg	118¾	118¾			
5-20's, 1867, registered	121¾	121¾			
5-20's, 1867	121¾	121¾			
5-20's, 1868, reg	121¾	121¾			
5-20's, 1868	121¾	121¾			
10-40's	117¾	117¾			
10-40's, coupons	118¼	118¼			
Currency 6's	126½	126½			
New 5 per cents	118¾	118¾			
Western Union Tel	67¾	67¾	67¼	67¼	67¾
Quicksilver	17¾	17¾	17¾	17¾	17¾
Pacific Mail	17¾	17¾	17¾	17¾	17¾
Panama					
Adams Express	105¾		105¾		
Wells-Fargo Express	89		89¼		
American Express	60		60		
United States Express	73¾		73¾		
New York Central	127¾	127¾	127¾	127¾	128
Erie	17¾	18¾	18	18¼	18¾
Michigan Central	93		93		
Michigan Southern	60¾	60¾	60¾	60¾	60¾
Illinois Central	98	98¼			
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	95¾	95¾			
Chicago & Northwestern					42¾
Do. preferred					63¾
Rock Island					105¾
St. Paul common	41		40¾		
Do. preferred	66¾		66¾		
Wabash common			13¾		
Fort Wayne	102		102		102
Ohio & Mississippi	18		18		
Union Pacific	64¾	64¾			63¾
Harlem	140	140			140
Hannibal & St. Joe	16¾	16	16		16
Atlantic & Pacific pref'd					
Iron Mountain					
C., C. & I. C	48				
Missouri Pacific					
South Carolinas, Ap'l	36				
South Carolinas, July	36				
Missouri 6's	104				

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	57¾	57¾	47¾
Reading	47¾	47¾	47¾
United Co's of N J	153¾	154	
Oil Creek	14¾	15	
Lehigh Valley	61¾	61¾	
Allegheny Valley	101		
Central Transportation	47	47¾	
Empire Transportation	52	53	
P., C. & St. L. m. b	36		

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 113.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, April 8—Money 4@5 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5@6 per cent. Customs receipts $100,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $48,000. Clearings $25,000,000. Sterling steady at 487@489¾.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 113¼ and closed at 113. Carrying rates 1@3 per cent. Loans also made flat.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm. Railroad bonds dull. State securities quiet. The stock market was heavy and lower in early dealings, the greatest depression and decline being in Western Union, Pacific Mail and Erie. Subsequently there was a partial recovery, followed by a decline after second call. During the last hour the market was weak and the lowest prices of the day were generally made. Pacific Mail fell off to 16¾; Western Union to 67⅝; Lake Shore to 96; Union Pacific to 63¾; Erie to 18, Ohio and Mississippi to 17¾, and Michigan Central to 93¾. Transactions 17,000 shares, of which 3,000 were Pacific Mail, 2,000 Western Union, 40,000 Erie and 14,000 Lake Shore. The following were the closing quotations:

W. U. Telegraph	67¾	Rock Island	105¼
Quicksilver	17	St. Paul	41
Do. preferred	65¾	Do. preferred	66¾
Pacific Mail	16¾	Toledo & Wabash	13¾
Marions	7¾	Do. preferred	26¾
Do. preferred	8	Ft. Wayne	102
Adams Express	105	Terre Haute	104
Wells-Fargo Ex	89¼	Do. preferred	15
American Ex	60½	Chicago & Alton	103½
U. S. Express	73¾	Do. preferred	119
New York Central	128	Ohio & Mississippi	18
Erie	18¼	Delaware & Lack	118
Do. preferred	32	Alabama & P. Tel	18
Harlem	139	Missouri Pacific	14
Do. preferred	133	Atlantic & P. pref	35¾
Mich. Central	93¾	Indiana Central	4¾
Panama	127	Chicago, Bur. & Q	119
Lake Shore	96¾	Hannibal & St. Joe	15
Illinois Central	97¾		

Cleveland & Pitts. 95¾ | Union Pacific stock 63¾
Northwestern ..... 42¾ | Union Pac. bonds..105¾
Do. preferred ..... 80¾ | Pac. land grants..103¾
C. C. & I. C ..... 48 | Do. & fund bds. 91¾
N. J. Central 102

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	122¾	New 5's	118¾
5-20's, 1865	118¾	10-40's	117¾
5-20's, 1865, new	118¾	10-40's, coupons	118¾
5-20's, 1867	121¾	Currency 6's	126½
5-20's, 1868	121¾		

STATE BONDS.

Missouri 6's	104	Tennessee, old	43
Virginia, new	34	Tennessee, new	40¾
Virginia, old	35		

LONDON, April 8, 5 P. M.—Consols 94 11-16, 10½'s, 10-40's, 106½; new 5's 105¾. Railroad securities—New York Central 102; Erie 17¾; do preferred 32.

PARIS, April 8—Rentes 57 francs 16 centimes.

FRANKFORT, April 8—United States bonds—New 6's 102.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8—Gold 113¾@113¾. Sight ¾ per cent. premium. Sterling—Bank 550¾.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, April 8, 1876.

The state of trade to-day was moderately active for Saturday, and the tone of the business public was quite hopeful. Merchants seemed to think that they were going to have a season of tolerably good business now that winter has apparently left us. It is true that the same opinion as to an improvement in trade has been periodically expressed for some time back, to receive at least a very qualified verification by the facts, and in this case it must be expected that although there are some elements for hope as to the future, they are no more powerful than have previously existed to better purpose. Business men must make up their minds to a very slow recuperation; and it will probably prove so slow that we shall see more stagnation and depression before the goal of prosperity is attained.

The business in most of the leading merchandise branches to-day was moderately active. Grain was very quiet and unchanged, except in corn, which was easier. Flour was in very active jobbing demand at firm values. In produce, apples, cheese and grocery were firm, the latter having a very decidedly advancing tendency. Provisions and groceries were steady with a fair business at nominally unchanged values. Petroleum was weak, selling still another decline and closing at a very material reduction from the opening values of the week.

There was an active jobbing trade, among the dry goods houses, the week closing upon a very satisfactory volume of business. The tone of the trade is rather sanguine, so far as concerns the amount of goods which is expected to be handled, while all agree that values this season will be as low as they are at present. Our dealers are jobbing at New York prices, and the quotations on dry goods average nearly as low as before the war. The circular lately issued by a jobbing house in New York, and which has created a good deal of comment in the market, has elicited the following card from Messrs. J. V. Farwell & Co. of Chicago: "The circular recently issued by a New York house is conclusive evidence of the immense increase of the trade of the West and the decrease in the East. This is solely owing to our stock being so much larger, better assorted, and selected with special reference to the wants of the Western trade. The greater facilities for reaching this city enable the merchant to make frequent trips and thus have the advantage of fresh stocks to select from, and by buying often keep their stocks attractive, avoid losses usual to carrying large stocks, and saving large expenses incurred by traveling salesmen." &c. The card of Messrs. Farwell & Co. concludes with a guaranty to sell *foreign* as well as domestic goods at the very lowest prices, which is rather unkind to the New York firm who in their circular of March 25th recommend the merchants of the West to "supply themselves with domestics in the nearest market and to order all their foreign and fancy goods from New York." Jobbing prices being wholly unchanged, we economize space by omitting the full price-list for this issue.

A fairly active jobbing trade was transacted by the jobbing boot and shoe houses. The *Shoe and Leather Reporter* gives the shipments of boots and shoes from Boston to the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny during last week at 70 cases. The movements at Boston show an increase over last year of a slight percentage. The New York boot and shoe trade is reported as follows by the *Times*:

"The jobbing trade has been most satisfactory in this line, having been up to a fair average on a generally steady basis as to prices for seasonable styles. From the large wholesale houses their reports are of comparatively moderate movements within the previous range as to prices. Through the auction rooms liberal amounts of goods have been placed, but at irregular prices, in most instances below the expectations of sellers. A very limited trade has been reported in leading goods, prices of which have been unsettled."

The receipts of the leading articles of produce, in this city since our last, are as follows:

Flour, bbls	1,039	Apples, bbls	422
Corn, bus	1,410	Butter, pkgs	111
Wheat, bus	422	Bacon, tcs	20
Rye, bus	800	Potatoes, bus	2,800
Oats, bus	4,330	Hay, tons	49

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city during the week ending to-day, compared with the corresponding receipts for the three preceding weeks, are as follows:

Week ending	Mar. 18.	Mar. 25.	April 1.	April 8.
Flour, bbls	11,371	4,559	6,178	8,019
Apples, bbls	1,994	994	691	1,343
Cheese, lbs	145	243	76	75
Corn, bus	7,412	4,919	9,020	8,884
Oats, bus	6,503	4,300	6,000	4,330
Barley, bus	7,320	9,220	7,340	1,830
Rye, bus	1,877	1,112	2,000	2,676
Oats, bus	18,693	10,947	14,693	11,151
Butter, pkgs	594	414	597	559
Bacon, lbs	6,784	4,185	10,204	10,709
Bacon, tcs	383	599	463	269
Potatoes, bus	2,588	5,330	7,010	13,341
Hay, tons	1,724	610	1,672	1,745

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed

GRAIN—The market was a trifle more active but business continued light, with only moderate receipts. Values were strong with an upward tendency to wheat and an easier feeling in corn. Wheat is strong for winter; 1 car red sold at $1 32; 1 car prime at $1 40. We quote prime Michigan white at $1 40@1 45; Pennsylvania and Ohio red winter at $1 30@1 31; amber $1 36@1 38. No information on hand as to what grades are dull and neglected at $1 16@1 22; rejected do 90c@$1 10, as to quality. Corn was steady, the receipts being light, although lower prices will soon be produced by increased supplies. 1 car sold at 53c. We give the prices at which sales are made for spot corn, but for heavy shipments prices would have to be modified. We quote shelled at 62@63c for yellow; 60@61c for high-mixed; 58@59c for low-mixed; prime or choice 56@57c for yellow. Oats were tolerably active at steady prices. 1 car mixed sold at 39c. We quote mixed Pennsylvania and Ohio at 40@41c; white do at 42@43c; Western white 43@45c. Barley was easy with a moderate demand. Canada is held at $1 15@1 20 ₱ bushel; choice spring at $1 06@1 10; common to prime 75@90c. Rye is quiet and easy at 80@82c ₱ bushel. Jobbing sales were made at the usual advance. The visible supply of grain, comprising the stocks in granary at the principal points of accumulation at the seaboard and lake and rail interior, in transit by rail and frozen in the New York canals and the lakes, was as follows at the undermentioned dates:

	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Barley, bush.	Rye, bush.
April 1, '76	16,495,768	5,410,722	3,194,720	1,344,909	373,248
March 25, '76	16,495,768	5,410,722	3,194,720	1,344,909	373,248
March 18, '76	16,445,819	5,468,722	3,201,285	1,644,977	384,115
March 11, '76	16,393,666	6,371,892	3,805,221	1,664,648	415,187
March 4, '76	17,158,666	6,703,611	4,048,221	1,668,230	427,187
Feb. 26, '76	17,631,822	5,898,381	3,226,314	2,151,296	431,297
Feb. 19, '76	17,631,822	5,898,381	3,226,314	2,151,296	431,297
Feb. 12, '76	17,281,129	4,875,623	3,187,501	2,257,893	422,454
Feb. 5, '76	17,319,129	4,875,623	3,187,501	2,257,893	422,454
April 3, '75	11,287,504	8,068,917	2,228,659	680,311	102,428

FLOUR—The jobbing trade continues very active, and while receipts have increased to 8,019 barrels for the week, dealers find some difficulty in meeting the requirements of the trade. The inquiry is for standard brands, low grades being little inquired after. The prices current are as follows for the wholesale trade of our local millers: No. 1 white wheat $6 75 ₱ barrel; amber do $7 25; red wheat flour $6 75@7 00; in sacks 25c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing brands of the leading dealers for standard brands of flours are steady, as follows: Choice brands of family flour $7 00@7 25; white wheat $7 50@7 75; Wisconsin is quoted at $6 00@6 25; Minnesota $6 50@6 75; fancy St. Louis $6 25@6 50; choice patents $6 50@7 00; red winter wheat flour is active at $6 00@6 25; Graham flour $6 50@6 75; self-rising flour, 5 lb package, $2 25 ₱ dozen packages; cornmeal 75c ₱ bushel; cornmeal $6 25 ₱ bbl; kegs $3 25. Rye flour $5 00@5 25 ₱ bbl. Buckwheat flour 15½@16c ₱ lb for wholesale and jobbing business.

HAY—The receipts were moderately liberal, being 1,745 loads during the week. The market was about steady, $20 00 having been obtained for a car of choice timothy, which was, however, considered an outside price, $19 00 being generally quoted. We quote upland prairie at $15 00@15 00 ₱ ton; No. 1 timothy $19 00@20 00; No. 2, $17 00@18 00.

MILL FEED—There is a moderate volume of business with values about steady. We quote bran firm at $16 00@17 00 ₱ ton; seconds and unpatented $18 00@19 00; middlings, $21 00@23 00; chopped feed advanced to $24 00@26 00.

Country Produce.

APPLES—The jobbing demand was active, and a very good business was done during the week. Receipts were liberal for the season, being 1,361 barrels during the week. Values are firm and quotably unchanged at $5 25@5 50 per barrel for choice; prime $4 50@5 00 per barrel; mixed lots range from $4 00@4 50 per barrel.

APPLE BUTTER—The market is weak and lower. We quote business in a jobbing way at 6@6½c ₱ gallon.

BEANS—There is a steady but rather quiet market. We quote prime white navy in small first hands at $1 65@1 70 ₱ bushel; a jobbing way $1 75@1 80.

BEESWAX—The inquiry was only moderate. We quote at 30@32c ₱ pound.

BUTTER—There was some improvement in the demand for butter to-day and most of the leading commission houses reported an active and satisfactory trade. There was no disposition to advance quotations, the general opinion being that to retain present values was all that could be done. Receipts by rail for the week are 559 packages. We quote the best qualities of print egged family at 32@33c ₱ lb; prime to choice 28@32c common to fair rules at 18@22c.

CHEESE—There is a rather quiet market. We quote at 15@16c ₱ barrel for hard; sweet drinking 8@10@12 00 ₱ barrel.

CRANBERRIES—There is a firm market with a moderate supply. Prices are steady at $15 00@16 00 per barrel, as to quality and condition; $5 00 ₱ crate.

CRESS—The demand is not very active and trade is quiet, but values are well sustained by the small stock of prime. Stocks are now largely composed of odds and ends, so that there is very little prime offering, which makes values firm for the high grades. We quote prices as follows: New York Goshen 14½@15c; prime Ohio factory 13½@14c per lb.

DRIED FRUITS—The market is steady with a fair demand. We quote as follows: Apples common to choice apples at 9@10c; sliced, 10@11c. Peaches—Halves 11@12c; peeled 19@20c. Blackberries 12@13c. Huckleberries 8½@9c. Raspberries 30@33c. Cherries, pitted, 25@28c; unpitted 8@9c per lb.

EGGS—The supply was again rather light and insufficient to the demands of the trade. The market has a very decided upward tendency. It is due to the fact that the demand is likely to increase next week, and that no stock will be left over from this week's trade. We quote at 17@18c per dozen for strictly fresh, with some houses making nominal figures a cent higher.

HOPS—We quote prime 1874's at 18@20c ₱ lb; medium to 15@17c; low grades nominal.

HONEY—The supply is liberal with a fair demand. We quote at $2 90@3 00 ₱ barrel in a jobbing way; $2 75@3 00 in round lots.

HONEY—New domestic honey is easier at 29@30c ₱ lb. California is quoted at 45c ₱ lb.

MAPLE SYRUP—Receipts are moderate and the market is steady; quoted at $1 40@1 45 per gallon jug. Maple sugar is in active demand at 10@12c per pound.

NUTS—Peanuts are in fair jobbing request; prime white Tennessee nuts rule at 8@9c according to quality; Virginia 7½@8c; shellbarks pressed at 3@4c ₱ bushel; hazelnuts $5 50@6 00 ₱ bushel. Peanuts are in limited demand and in light stock at 10½@11c.

ONIONS—There is a slow trade with a rather weak feeling. We quote at $1 90@1 75 ₱ barrel.

POULTRY—There is a firm market at rather higher quotations. We quote dressed chickens at 15@16c ₱ lb; turkeys 17@18c; geese nominally at 8@10c; live chickens by the coop 70@80c per pair; on the wing 75c per pair.

POTATOES—The receipts for the week have been quite heavy, aggregating 13,247 bushels for the week. Trade has, however, been quite active and values have retained their former range, with perhaps a trifle stronger tone, notwithstanding the increased supply. We quote round lots at 35c for peachblows; 30@32c for Pearless and Early Rose; sales were made from store at 40c ₱ bushel for prime peachblows; 35c for Pearless. Sweet potatoes were jobbing in a small way at $3 50 ₱ bushel.

SEEDS—Cloverseed is in liberal supply at easy prices. We quote at $10 00@10 25 in a jobbing way, and $9 50@10 00 in round lots; timothy seed is easy at $2 65@2 75 ₱ bushel; flaxseed $1 45@1 50 ₱ bushel. Sales in a small way: onion sets $2 00@3 50 ₱ bushel.

VINEGAR—There is an active demand. We quote cider at 15@20c ₱ gallon; best city make, No. 2, at 15c ₱ gallon.

Provisions.

There has been more ease developed during the past day in the local provision market, and while the demand is steady, the policy seems to be that of hand-to-mouth purchases. How far the high prices of the season will operate to restrict consumption is, of course, an open question, but that effect seems to have been produced to a very considerable extent. The week's receipts are fair, being 85,200 pieces and 299 tierces. Values are easier but nominally unchanged.

BACON—There was a nominal feeling at easy quotations which are as follows for canvassed hams: 16¾@16¾c ₱ pound; short rib sides 13¾c; clear sides 12½c.

CITY AND CURED MEATS—Hams were steady and in fair demand at 14½c ₱ lb for extra sugar cured. Breakfast bacon was steady and on quote sugar cured at 15c. Sugar cured shoulders were firm being quotable at 10¾@11c. Dried beef, clear sides at 13c. Beef tongues, $2 00 ₱ dozen, are quoted at $6 50.

LARD—The market is easier and nominally unchanged. We quote prime leaf lard in tierces at 11¾@12c ₱ lb; in half-barrels 12½c; in buckets 13½c ₱ lb; refinery lard in tierces 15½c ₱ lb; in half-barrels 15¾c ₱ lb; in buckets 16½c ₱ lb; in 3-lb caddies 17½c ₱ lb; in 5-lb caddies 17½c ₱ lb; in 10-lb pails 17½c ₱ lb; in 5-lb pails 17½c ₱ lb; in 3-lb pails 17¾c ₱ lb.

LARD OIL—The trade is steady demand at firm prices. We quote extra winter-strained at $1 10 ₱ gallon; No. 1at 95c; No. 2 at 85c; extra No. 1 miners' oil, extra, 65@66c; No. 1 61@63c.

HAM SAUSAGE—Continues steady at 9½@10c ₱ lb.

MESS PORK—The market is strong, the ruling prices being $21 00@24 50 ₱ barrel for prime mess.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers, city rendered, 9@9¼c ₱ lb; country do 8½@8¾c ₱ lb.

COUNTRY BACON—There is a moderate demand for country-cured meats at steady values. We quote hams at 11½@12c ₱ lb; shoulders 9@10c; sides 12@13c; lard 11@12c.

The Cincinnati *Price Current* follows the week's provision trade as follows: "There has been little of interest in the market since the settlement of the March contracts were effected. There has been some trading in futures on lard, and clear ribbed sides, in last week's prices which indicate considerable confidence that will be sustained, but these operations are restricted by free bidding for offerings at prices within the reach of buyers. The domestic consumptive demand for all articles is steady is characterized by moderation, and aided by the free handling of speculative buyers, rather than to any anticipation of such wants. The result is that there is not enough activity to justify enhancement of values to higher prices, and there is too much confidence to attempt to break the market. The foreign demand is also moderate, and the receipts and the reported stocks in Liverpool are so small that it is apparently necessary that the foreign orders do not increase, there will be large consignments, which amount to the same thing in the end.

"The foreign exports from the seaboard ports for the week ending last Saturday were a little short of the corresponding week last year, but there is little doubt that they will rally again when it becomes clear to our foreign cousins that they can not obtain supplies any cheaper. The market for several days has been weak, but with little disposition to sell except at full prices, and as stocks are fast becoming distributed into the hands of a consumptive body few strong holders they now do or soon will virtually control the market."

Groceries.

There was a good trade among the wholesale grocers, the market being steady and with an advance previously noted being maintained, with a fair demand. New York advices show a dull market there at the close of the week, notwithstanding the strong statistical position as shown by the decrease in stocks in first hands. Sugars are rather easy, the supply being up to the demand, and our quotations represent the full jobbing prices. Eastern and Southern advices are rather favorable to strength, but are not sufficiently short to exert any influence on the market here. There is no change of especial importance going on in teas, a fair jobbing business having been reported. Spices, rice and other staple groceries are moderately active and unchanged. Prices-current are as follows:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb.	*Sugars.*	₱ lb
Fancy Rio	24 c	Standard A	10 c
Choice Rio	23 c	Standard B	10 c
Prime Rio	22 c	Do. extra C	9⅝c
Good Rio	21 c	Extra C	9¼c
Ordinary Rio	20 c	C—yellow	8¾c
Java	32 c	Franklin, B	9¾c
Roasted Coffees.		Cut Loaf	12 c
Rio, in papers	27@28c	Crushed	11½c
Rio, in bulk	25 @27 c	Powdered	11 c
Rio, in bulk 24	@27 c	Granulated	11 c
Java, in papers	33½c	Good fair N	8¾ c
Java, in bulk	30c	Prime do	9¼c
Teas.		Prime do	8¾c
Young Hyson	65@91 c	Fancy Sugar	10¼c
Gunpowder	65@91 c	White clarified do	10 c
Imperial	50@85 c	*Molasses.*	₱ gall.
Japan	40@85 c	Sugar House	30c
Oolong	75@85 c	Good	50c
Fancy	1 00		
Good	90c	*Syrups.*	
Starch.	₱ lb	8x white drips	26c
Pearl	6½@7c	Pearl drips	44@45c
Silver gloss	9¼c	Lower grades	35@36c
Corn	10¼c	*Spices.*	
Rice.		Choice	5½ c
Choice Carlin	7¼@8 c	Alspice	17 c
Patna	7 c	Cassia	23@25 c
Rangoon	6½c	Ginger	18 c
Louisiana	6¾@7 c	Pepper	19@21 c
Soda.	₱ lb	*Soaps.*	
Bi-carb in kegs	5 c	Irish soap, ₱ box	4½@5c
Bi-carb in 10 ₱ pkgs	5½c	S. S. Star, ₱ box	5 75
Bi-carb in ½ papers	6 c	Bar soap, ₱ box	3 75
Candles.		Do. No. 1 Oily, ₱ lb	5½c
Star, full weight	17 c	German mottled do	5½c
Sperm	33½c	Common mottled do	4½c
Mould	11@12 c	California, ₱ box	4 20

CANNED GOODS—The trade is steady at the following current rates:

2 ₱ Bartlett pears	$3 00	2 ₱ blackberries	$2 50
2 ₱ peaches	3 00	2 ₱ Lawton berries	2 75
2 ₱ pineapple	2 00	2 ₱ white cherries	2 75
2 ₱ quinces	3 00	2 ₱ red cherries	1 90
2 ₱ raspberries	2 75	2 ₱ gooseberries	2 00
2 ₱ strawberries	2 00	2 ₱ green gages	2 00
2 ₱ Lima beans	1 50	2 ₱ damson plums	1 75
2 ₱ string beans	1 50	2 ₱ damson plums	2 50
2 ₱ Winslow's corn	2 25	2 ₱ peaches	1 75
2 ₱ sugar corn	1 65	2 ₱ peaches	2 00
3 ₱ tomatoes	1 65	2 ₱ pie peaches	1 60

FISH—A steady trade at unchanged prices as noted in our last issue, viz: Mackerel—We quote the following list of quotations:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess	$	Labrador herring,	$
mackerel	$34 00	split	4 50
No. 1 mess	32 00	Round herring	4 00
Ex. No. 1 shore do	28 00	Lake do, bl. bbls	3 75
No. 1 shore do	25 00	Smok'd shad, ₱ box	75
Ex. No. 1 bay do	20 00	Bay do	1 00
No. 1 bay do	19 00	codfish, ₱ lb	6½c
Ex. No. 2 do	17 00	Medium do	6 c
No. 2 do	16 00	Boneless codfish	8 c
Large No. 3 do	12 50	Haliut do	12½c
No. 3 mackerel	9 75	Scaled herring, bbl	1 00
California salmon,		Scaled herring, do bx	50
bl-bbls	9 00	Holland do ₱ keg	1 40
Tomatoes, are in fair request at unchanged prices. We quote:			

Manufactured——

Spun roll	60@63c	Six Twist	63@66c
Black Navy	53@55c	Smoking—Gran.	50@55c
Black Tens	58@58c	Lump	50@75c
Louisville Navy	58@58c	*Leaf Tobacco—*	
Louisville Cav	58@58c	Western leaf—	
Virginia Navy	58@58c	wrappers	15@20c
Virginia Tens	58@58c	West'n leaf—lugs	9@12c
Virginia Cav	58@58c	Ohio wrappers	20@30c
Double Thick	60@63c	Ohio seed filler	9@12c
Flounders	60@70c	Conn. (choice)	
Bright pounds	63c@1	wrappers	60@70c
Black Quarters	55@60c	Conn. filler	12@15c
Bump & Ready	60@65c	Havana wrappers	1 50@2 00
Fine Cut plugs	70@80c	Havana fillers	60@1 50
Fine Cut	60@70c	*Cigars—*	
Cut and Dry	33@42c	Penn. Cigars	@15@ 20
Scotch Snuff	65@75c	Connecticut	25@ 30
Black Snuff	50@60c	Cuba & Havana	50@ 75
Plug	50@60c	Hava'na	50@150

FOREIGN FRUITS—Are in fair demand. We quote as follows: Raisins—Layers, new, ₱ box, $3 00; London layers do $4 50; Malagas, new, 11¼@12c ₱ lb; Sultanas 18c. Dates 8½@9c ₱ lb. Currants 8c. Citron 25c. Figs 15@16c. Almonds—Languedoc 25c; do shelled 38c; Princess 37c; do Jordan 35c, do Ivica 25c. Walnuts—Naples 20c; Marbot

CITY MATTERS.

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is deserved.

To Our Subscribers.

Subscribers to the COMMERCIAL who have changed their residence will please notify the carriers of such change, or leave proper notice at the counting room, No. 70 Fifth avenue, in order that they may receive their papers regularly.

Our Removal.

Patrons and friends of the COMMERCIAL will please remember that we have removed to No. 70 Fifth avenue, Carr's Iron Block, where all will be welcomed.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., April 9, 1876.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A.M..	30.22	39	67	N.	Light.	Clear.
2 P.M..	30.09	50	39	N.	Gentle	Clear.
9 P.M..	30.13	42	63	N.W.	Gentle	Clear.

Mean barometer... 30.14 Highest thermom....54
Mean thermom.... 41 Lowest thermom.....27

Pittsburgh Female College.

Spring term commences April 17th. Send for catalogue to Rev. I. C. Pershing, D. D., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dr. Hunter

Devotes special attention to diseases of the throat, lungs and ears. Office, No. 178 Fourth avenue, above Grant street. Office hours from 9 A. M. to 7 P. M. FMWtf

Iron City College,

corner of Penn avenue and Sixth street, Pittsburgh. Students received at any time. For circulars containing terms, &c., call on or address J. C. Smith, A. M., Principal.

County Office Revenue.

The revenue to the county, from the various public offices, for the month of March, foots up $2,343 23. There was a loss in the District Attorney's office of $321 99. In all the other offices the receipts largely exceeded the expenditures, except in the Coroner's, which was a standoff.

A Visit to Morganza.

The Legislative Investigating Committee visited Morganza on Saturday for the purpose of seeing the Reform School buildings. They were accompanied by several members of the Board of Managers, who escorted the legislators through the buildings and over the grounds, after which a sumptuous lunch was partaken of. The party returned to the city last evening.

Suit to Compel a Conveyance.

Christian Zuck and wife filed a bill in equity in the Common Pleas No. 1, on Saturday, against Wm. Bellstein to have him restrained from selling, conveying or in any way disposing of or incumbering a certain piece of ground in Allegheny, purchased by him at Sheriff's sale, and to compel him to convey the same to Elizabeth Zuck. The property is at 344 Rebecca street. A hearing was fixed for to-morrow.

Personal.

Mr. W. T. Caleb, late of the Monongahela House, of this city, has formed a business connection with the Westminster Hotel, of Philadelphia, and we are sure all of his Pittsburgh acquaintances will gladly visit him at his new quarters and will be gladly received. Mr. Caleb made hosts of warm friends while here; and during the Centennial, if there is any room to be found in the Westminster, he may expect to see a goodly number of familiar names inscribed on the register.

Street Car Accident.

On Saturday evening a son of Fred. Smith, a Smithfield street saloon keeper, aged eleven years, was trampled under the feet of the mules attached to a Pleasant Valley Railway car, sustaining, besides three broken ribs, severe internal injuries. The lad, it seems, was stealing a ride on car 22, and at the corner of Seventh avenue and Smithfield street he jumped off and ran in front of a car coming the other way, with the result stated above. Drs. Hamilton and Shaw are attending the boy, and they think he will recover. The driver of the car, Anthony Reubens, was arrested and taken before the Mayor on a charge of reckless driving, preferred by the boy's father. The accused was held for a hearing.

Acknowledgement.

PITTSBURGH, PA., April 6, 1876.

MR. HENRY C. AYERS, General Agent for Western Pennsylvania, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Dear Sir: Accept thanks for your promptness in paying the insurance on the life of David L. Fleming, deceased.

This case is a very marked illustration of the advantages arising from a Life Insurance Policy in a company of acknowledged high character.

Mr. Fleming's policy was dated May 26, 1875; he made but one payment of $98 34, and to-day his heirs are in receipt of your sight draft on New York for $3,000.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,
LEVI H. HARRIS,
ELIZABETH A. FLEMING,
Administrators.

The History of the Liquor Crusade.

In Saturday's COMMERCIAL, in our report of the second anniversary meeting of the crusaders, we gave a few extracts from the "History of the Crusade" read by Mrs. J. S. Collins. Time and space did not allow even a condesation of the interesting paper, and in the hurry we wound up by saying that it closed "with an argument for the ballot for women." Mrs. Collins, in a note to us, says: "You incorrectly report my statement in regard to women having the ballot. I never have been an advocate of that, and I here protest that I am not now."

We turn to the paper referred to and find that Mrs. Collins says: "If it is God's will to settle this great question (temperance) by giving women the ballot, with men, God speed the day."

Base Ball.

The first professional game of the season will take place next Saturday at the Union Park, Allegheny, between the Xanthas and Alleghenies.

Carr, of Sunbury, Pa., who was employed by the Allegheny club as catcher, proved an utter failure in a trial game, and was paid off and discharged. Lane, catcher for the Xanthas last season, will be substituted for Carr.

The John H. Burland club will play the J. Wiggans, to-day, at Coleman's grounds, Sixteenth street. The John H. will play any club whose members are under fourteen years of age.

The *Jr.* Wainwright club has organized for 1876, with the following players: W. Badger, c.; D. Tinn, p.; M. Neills, s. s.; J. McLaughlin, 1st b.; F. Glynn, 2d b.; E. Hooper, 3d b.; M. Tobin, l. f.; Edd. Moore, c. l.; J. Coyle, r. f. The club is open for challenges from all junior clubs. Address John McLaughlin, 121 Webster avenue.

The Marker Rush club has reorganized for the season, as follows: James McLaughlin, President; E. D. Gallagher, Secretary; John Crosby, captain; Wm. Reid, c.; John Crosby, p.; Thomas Trainer, s. s.; A. Newmeyer, 1st b.; John Hester, 2d b.; Thos. H. Wright, 3d b.; Frank Mullholland, l. f.; Wm. Cellers, c. f.; Robert Wallace, r. f.; extra players, Peter Hamon, M. Bowden, J. Gripp, F. Tanks and R. Berry.

THE HIBERNIANS.

State and County Conventions of the Ancient Order—Annual Sessions—The Reports—Officers Elected.

The annual session of the State and County Conventions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians were held at Phœnix Hall, this city, on Saturday.

The State Convention met at 2 P. M., with Captain John Gallagher in the chair. After roll-call and reading of the minutes, the State Secretary and the State Treasurer presented their reports, which were referred to respective Auditing committees, and the convention took a recess for an hour. At four o'clock the convention reassembled, and the Auditing Committee on the accounts of the State Treasurer first made a report, which showed that $15,347 had been paid out for sick and burial purposes, and that there remained on hand a balance of $18,449. The Auditing Committee on the State Secretary's books followed with their report, showing that the ancient order had increased from 32,604 in 1875 to 41,563 at the beginning of the year 1876. Both reports were adopted in order, and the committees discharged with thanks.

The convention then proceeded to the election of State officers. The following are the names of the gentlemen chosen: Mr. James Moran, State President; Mr. Michael Duffy, State Secretary, and Alderman Dominick Gallagher, State Treasurer. All of the elect are of this city. A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to the retiring State officers for the faithful manner in which they had discharged their respective duties.

The convention after transacting further routine business adjourned.

The County Convention met at eight o'clock, with President James Moran in the chair. The report of the County Treasurer showed a balance of $1,731 in hand, and that of the County Secretary exhibited an increase of membership from nearly 4,000 in 1875 (*January*) to 4,735. After reference to auditing committees, the convention adopted the reports, and proceeded to the election of county officers to serve for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were chosen: Mr. Walter McCabe, County President; Mr. James P. O'Neill, County Secretary; Mr. P. McGee, County Treasurer.

PITTSBURGH Councils meet this afternoon.

OUR BOOT AND SHOE TRADE

The Outlook for Spring and Summer Business.

A REPRESENTATIVE ESTABLISHMENT

It affords us pleasure to be able to record any and every indication of business prosperity which, notwithstanding the prevailing depression in many departments of trade, we find existing here and there with all the life and vigor of former years. In our perambulations among the various business houses of our city, we dropped in at the old established Wholesale Boot and Shoe House of Gill & Brother, No. 253 Liberty street, and, upon inquiry, found them not only busily filling orders for city and country trade, but ascertained that their business thus far in the season has been fully up to that of former years, and the outlook very encouraging for a large trade during the entire season. In looking through their very large stock of boots and shoes the conclusion impressed on our mind, was that this house was fully prepared to meet their customers with every variety of goods in their line, as there seemed to be an almost endless stock of women's, misses and children's, men's, boys' and youths' boots, shoes and Congress gaiters, Alexis, Oxford and Jersey ties, and fine calf boots; Miners nailed shoes in large variety; also, a large stock of city made goods, goat, morocco and lasting, all of which are being offered at bottom prices.

Purchasers in this line would do well to give this house a call and examine stock and prices before making their selections. See advertisement in another column.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge McCandless.

England & Bindley vs. Wm. F. Casey, debtor, city. Said debtor was adjudged a bankrupt.

John L. L. Knox, bankrupt, city. Assignees' report of sale of certain real estate confirmed absolutely.

George S. McCartney, bankrupt, Crawford county. Order made for the sale of a certain disputed claim against the First National Bank of Franklin, Pa.

Springer Harbaugh, David Matthews and Samuel Owens, bankrupts, city. Order made for final examination before Register Harper on the 19th proximo.

Following are the new cases: John S. Walker of Maysville, Armstrong county, dry goods and grocery dealer; John Patterson, Millerstown, Butler county, clothing, and J. M. Thomas, of Dempseytown, Venango county, farmer. All filed voluntary petitions.

Common Pleas No 1—Judges Sterrett and Stowe.

Lizzie A. Wilt, vs. Wm. S. Wilt. Winfield S. Wilson appointed Commissioner to take testimony.

Eliza S. Hubbard vs. Charles L. Hubbard. John T. Speer appointed Commissioner to take testimony.

R. M. Leonard vs. William Bunton. A. S. Miller appointed auditor.

In the matter of the voluntary assignment of Adam Potter to A. H. Bauman, William McCandless and George Shook were appointed appraisers.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Taylor *et al.* vs. McMasters; same vs. Calvert; Moorhead vs. City of Pittsburgh; Westphal vs. Kircher; Bank of Commerce vs. Kountz *et al.*; Long *et al.* vs. Vick *et al.*; Clark vs. Irwin; Darsie vs. Keenan; McGregor vs. Mariner; Murry *et al.* vs. Cunningham; Schuckman vs. Stroble, garnishee; Claflin *et al.* vs. McElroy *et al.*; Spuhler vs. B. and L. Association; Heckel vs. Mellon.

Common Pleas No. 3—Judges Ewing and White.

Fannie W. Gillesenkamp vs. John S. Gilesenkamp. John E. Speer appointed Commissioner to take testimony.

Hannah Butler vs. Charles Butler; libel in divorce. H. Martin appointed Commissioner to take testimony.

John King vs. Anna Maria King. Gilbert M. McMasters appointed Commissioner to take testimony.

William Schaum vs. Abraham Campbell. Rule on Theodore Woods to file his account as receiver within thirty days.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Turner vs. Shermerhorn *et al*; Toussant vs. Gangwish *et al*; Michael vs. McClay; McMichael vs. Hawkins *et al*; Sampson *et al* vs. Negley: Niccols vs. Johnson; Ewing vs. Rafferty; Duncan vs. O'Hara; Rosenberg & Co. vs. Niccols & Shaw; Shinghose vs. Reynolds; Jac vs. Ernstein & Co.

Orphans' Court—Judge Hawkins.

In the matter of the petition of the estate of Caleb Russell, deceased. Agreement of heirs filed, and a settlement of the remainder of the estate ordered.

John Maurer, deceased. Petition of widow for claims to Adam Arras, administrator, to account. Order made for citation, returnable on the 22d inst.

Estate of James McGunnigle, deceased. Rule on Wm. Wilson to show cause, &c., made absolute, and resale of lots sold to Wm. Wilton ordered at his cost. Sale returnable June 5th.

Estate of Robert Watson, deceased. Minas Tindle, one of the commissioners, having died, upon agreement of all parties, W. W. Thomson was substituted as Commissioner.

Jane Scott *et al.* Robert McKibben appointed guardian.

Archibald Galbraith and Charles McCarthy, deceased. Widows' appraisements presented and approved *nisi*.

In the matter of the real estate of Mary A. Robbins, deceased. Decree made setting aside sale of real estate to John Quinlivan, and order made to refund purchase money.

Nellie Black, minor. Petition of Ellen Hawdon, guardian, for leave to execute quit claim and carry out parol partition between the heirs of Michael Hawdon and heirs of John Marshall, both deceased. Decree made.

Mary McMonigle *et al.* Felix Nicholson appointed guardian of all the minor children of Rose Hannon, deceased.

Florence Myrtle Bryson. David Bryson appointed guardian.

John Porter Jamison. Susan McDonnell appointed guardian.

Michael Hagmeier, deceased. Petition of administrators for leave to mortgage real estate of deceased for the payment of debts. Order made.

Estate of Andrew Boyd, deceased. Widow's appraisement presented and approved *nisi*.

The court will take up the audit list, at ten o'clock this morning.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Kirkpatrick.

The trial of John A. Strouse, for fornication and bastardy, will be resumed this morning.

John Mattnews, convicted on three indictments for receiving stolen goods, was sentenced five years on each to the Penitentiary, making nine years in all. The stolen goods which he received consisted of a gold and silver watch, an opera glass, gold jewelry, nickel coins and other articles which were stolen on St. Patrick's Day by Swinehart, Henry and Rice, who entered four houses in the Eighth and Eleventh wards, while the inmates were out watching the procession. Matthews has already served twelve years in the Penitentiary. He has been keeping a "fence" in this city. Wm. Bowden and John Buchanan were the prosecutors.

Jos. Brown, convicted of keeping a bawdy house, charged by Sarah McKenna, was sentenced to pay the costs and to undergo ten days' imprisonment in jail.

John Young, charged in two indictments with an attempt to commit robbery, and convicted of an attempt to commit larceny, was sentenced two years on each to the Workhouse. The party was discovered in several attempts to pick the pockets of persons on St. Patrick's day.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Commonwealth vs. J. M. Callahan *et al.*; Ruth Smith; Joseph Starkey; John H. Goe; Albert Sadler; James Dunn; James Fletcher; John Campbell *et al.*; Valentine Post; John Griffin (2); Jacob Galloway; Mathew Cassiday; Patrick Paton; P. J. Sweeny; James McCord *et al.*; Ferdinand Bening; Louis Green; Michael Mead; Chas. Lynch; Robert W. Mains; Wm. DeLaney (2); F. J. Cee; Wm. Tell.

AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM SOLVED.

Utilization of Coal Dirt as an Article of Fuel.

The *Chronicle* of Harrisburg says: The problem of the utilization of coal dirt seems to be in a fair way of solution. The trouble has always been that it would not burn because it was too compact and would smother rather than ignite. For fifty years that has been the one great impediment, and scientists could not overcome it. Finally, however, Superintendent Wootten, of the Reading Railroad, thought of introducing a steam blast, through the coal from the bottom in the hope of penetrating the mass and supplying plenty of air. He built a furnace specially for it and placed it under a stationary engine boiler. Instead of using grate bars he employed a perforated iron plate for the fire to rest upon. A pipe from the boiler conveyed the steam and the necessary pressure supplied the blast, and this stroke proved to be the key-note to the coal dirt problem. It burned freely and threw out an immense heat. The oldest dirt was used to see if it possessed burning qualities, and it was found that it consumed freely, the same as the best of coal. It was next tried in the furnace of a locomotive engine and was found to burn equally well. That day, when the wind was blowing at the velocity of forty miles an hour, a coal dirt burning engine took up a train of one hundred cars through the valley with the same ease and with as little labor as an engine burning the very best anthracite coal. This is regarded as a great revolution in the coal and iron country, because it transforms at least 1,000,000 tons of heretofore useless coal dirt into a fuel worth at the very least one dollar per ton, and provides a way to consume all coal dirt that may come to the surface in the future.

THE High School Committee met on Saturday afternoon, when a motion to reconsider the action in the passage of the resolution relative to the commercial department was voted down. The matter, about which there appears to be some feeling as to the wording of the resolution, will be up for discussion before the Central Board to-morrow evening.

HOLY WEEK.

Roman Catholic Ceremonies.

Yesterday was Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. The week is a season of great solemnity in the Roman Catholic ritual, and is called Holy Week, in allusion to the holy mysteries which are commemorated. On Palm Sunday palm branches are blessed and distributed to the people, and a procession of the clergy is formed, during which the palm branches are borne by them, commemorating the entry of the Savior into Jerusalem. This is all expressive of joy. It is also a day of sorrow, in so far as it anticipates the crucifixion, which will be commemorated later in the week. For the latter reason, the images and pictures of saints, and other like ornaments in the church, are covered with a purple cloth, expressive of mourning. The Passion according to St. Matthew is sung on this day, and on Tuesday and Wednesday the Passion according to St. Mark and St. Luke is read.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings the beautiful and imposing office of Tenebræ is chanted. This name is given from the circumstance that all the candles, which have been prepared in the sanctuary, are extinguished during the course of the ceremony. The six candles on the altar and the fifteen candles in a triangular candlestick on the epistle side of the altar, all burning at the beginning of the office, signify the lights of faith, preached by the prophets and Christ, of which faith, the fundamental article is the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, represented by the triangular candlestick. During Matins and Lauds, at the end of each psalm, one of the fourteen candles in the triangle is successively extinguished, and at the last six verses of the Benedictus those on the altar are extinguished, representing that the Jews were totally deprived of the light of faith when they put the Savior to death. The fifteenth or topmost one in the triangle typifies Christ, the light of the world, and, at the conclusion of the ceremonies, this candle is taken away temporarily, and at the same time a loud noise is made and the lights in the church are lowered, representing the confusion of nature at its loss and the darkness that covered the earth at His death.

Holy Thursday, or, as it is sometimes called, Maundy Thursday, from the ceremony of washing the feet, is a day of joy and thanksgiving, expressed by the ringing of bells, the white robes of the priests and the flowers and adornments of the altar. On this day is commemorated the Lord's Last Supper and the institution of the great sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Although the church during the week is shrouded with mourning for the passion and death of the Lord, nevertheless some expression of joy is considered necessary on the day of the institution of this sacrament, and, in order to give greater expression to it, a separate feast has been set apart during the year, called Corpus Christi, for its more perfect celebration. On this day, at the Cathedral, the oil of catechumen, oil of infirm and the holy chrism is consecrated and blessed. This is a very imposing ceremony. In every church is prepared a richly ornamented side chapel or pavilion, where, after the mass, the sacrament is placed in a handsome repository. It is customary among Catholics on Holy Thursday to visit these pavilions in a number of churches in order to pay the Lord their homage of adoration and present Him their most fervent supplication.

Good Friday commemorates the death and crucifixion of the Lord, and the services in the Catholic churches consist simply in the singing of the Passion according to St. John, and the veneration of the cross by the priests and people. Every circumstance of the tragedy is put before the people, not merely in words, but with all the expressiveness of ceremonial. In many of the churches a sepulcher is built in a convenient place representing the Savior in the tomb. On Holy Saturday the ceremonies comprise chiefly the blessing of the holy water and its distribution among the people, and the ringing in of Easter joy. On this day the Alleiuia is sung, and the church is changed from its sombre appearance.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

Fall of a Brick Wall—Five Men Covered—All Rescued and Only Slight Injuries the Result.

Between three and four o'clock on Saturday afternoon two floors, and a portion of a brick wall of one of the old Irish buildings, now being taken down, fell, and covered five of the workmen. Intense excitement prevailed in the vicinity, and it was believed that some, if not all, of the men must be killed. A great crowd collected, and it was only by the utmost police exertion kept the people from interfering with the laborers who at once set to work to rescue their comrades. Several of the buildings in the locality mentioned are being taken down to give place to new structures. The workmen had taken down the two upper stories of that portion formerly occupied by Nutting, Mother, and were at work upon the first floor, when the second and third stories of that portion lying toward Penn street came crashing down with a great noise, burying five of the workmen underneath it. Other workmen at once lent willing hands, picks and spades to clearing away the debris in search of the buried men. Four of them were extricated with out much difficulty. These were Edward Donnelly, Joseph and Michael Flanigan, brothers, and Henry Gledhill, a lad of about seventeen. Donnelly, who resides at Butchers' Run, received some cuts about the head, and was bruised somewhat. The others escaped comparatively unhurt. The search after the fifth person—a man named Andrew Pinkerton—was the most difficult to undertake.

He was finally discovered fastened under timber, which fortunately had protected him from falling brick and mortar. He was cut out and found not to be seriously injured. It was fully an hour before the flooring and the stairway and debris that had crushed down upon it were removed and Pinkerton rescued from his ugly position. When extricated those about were astonished to find Pinkerton able to get up and walk away withoût assistance. He stated that he was hurt further than that his back felt sore from where he was thrown upon the bricks.

Stat: Assessment on Liquour Dealers. The *Evening Telegraph* insists that the State Mercantile Appraiser is required to assess liquor dealers, and quotes a section of the act repealing the Taxation law, approved April 12, 1875, as follows:

"SECTION 3. That all hotels, inns and taverns shall be classified and rated according to the last annual return of the mercantile appraiser or assessors of the proper city or county as follows, to wit." Then follows the classification and prices of the licenses.

We contend that but one State and county tax can be assessed upon and collected from any class of business; and as liquor dealers are specially taxed by license, that there cannot be a mercantile appraisement upon them, and there certainly would be no appraisement if it was not to be collected. The mercantile appraiser would no doubt be glad to do the duty insisted upon by the *Telegraph*, because it would be additional grist to him. It must be remembered that the liquor license law pertaining to this county was a *special* act, while the above quoted act is a general one, passed since the adoption of the new Constitution. We would note further that in the above quoted section the words "or assessors" are used in connection with mercantile appraiser.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS

Pittsburgh Opera House.

Mrs. Emma Waller closed her engagement on Saturday evening to a fair audience. Every one of her performances was well attended, and drew the very best class of the patrons of the drama. Mrs. W. will play here again next season.

The Two Orphans.

As given by the Furbish Fifth Avenue Combination earlier in the season, is too fresh in the minds of all to need special mention now. It was given to a succession of crowded houses for two weeks, and delighted all. The company is a very competent one; and as they have played together in the "Two Orphans" a great number of times, have perfected themselves in every particular. The piece will be elegantly mounted, much of the scenery having been specially prepared for it by Mr. Arthur Palmer, the talented artist.

Fifth Avenue Comedy Theater.

There will be a grand exposition of art—*and* nature—by the Matt. Morgan troupe at the Fifth Avenue Comedy Theater, this evening. There will be a series of tableaux representing mythological and historical subjects, by a number of beautiful young ladies. Between the tableaux variety performances will be given, there being a number of artists engaged for this purpose. Of these Miss Annie Kemp Bowler is the chief. Crowded houses may be looked for.

Academy of Music.

Next Monday evening, at the Academy of Music, the new York success in the way of a drama, "Pique," will be produced by the company from Augustin Daly's Fifth Avenue Theater—the same which played the "Big Bonanza" at the Opera House some weeks since, with the exception that Miss Sara Jewett's place is taken by Mrs. Jeffries-Lewis. Of "Pique" the New York *Tribune* says that it "blends comedy, sentiment and sensation in a way that will not fail to please." The seats will be sold at Hale's, 103 Smithfield street.

The Centennials.

The sale of seats for the performance by the Centennials, for the benefit of the Pittsburgh Society for the improvement of the Poor, will begin at nine o'clock this morning, at Hale's, 103 Smithfield street. As a number of leading ladies have taken the matter in charge, Library Hall will be filled next Monday evening, when the entertainment takes place.

Wallace's Testimonial.

Wallace's testimonial benefit comes off at Library Hall on Tuesday evening of next week. On that occasion, Carl Retter, Paul Boehme, Mr. Meyerhoefer, Jack Irwin, Bartley Campbell and the Troubadours will be among the performers, so that a rich and varied programme may be expected.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

THE street scrapers are now actively at work.

THE Central Board of Education meets to-morrow evening.

THIS is the anniversary of the great fire, April 10, 1845. The big bell will strike the year about noon.

LOOK out for good crops. An old saying has it that—

"should Palm Sunday be bright and clear,
Surely will come a fruitful year."

A DRUNKEN man, name unknown, fell down the stairway in a house on Carson street, last night, and was badly bruised.

THE alarm of fire at 1:50 yesterday afternoon was caused by the burning of a shed near the Oakland car stables. There was no loss.

THE Board of Viewers yesterday took a look at Second avenue, old city, with a view of reporting as to the assessments necessary for its repair.

ABRAM CRONER, a painter, fell from a ladder, in Allegheny, on Saturday, and was severely injured. He was removed to his residence, on Mt. Washington.

THE tenth annual meeting of the trustees and contributors to the Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensary will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, April 11, 1876, at 3 o'clock P. M.

COLONEL WILLIAM A. HERRON Select Councilman from the Fourth ward has been confined to his house, by illness, for some days. He is now, we are pleased to state, improving.

A LOAFER was arrested last night, in Allegheny, by Officer Melntyre. At the lock-up, while the officer was stating the cause of arrest to the captain, the prisoner ran away and was not recaptured.

THE pupils of the Franklin district school are preparing for the Centennial. They have an admirable lot of drawings ready and citizens of the Seventh and Eighth wardsare to be invited to inspect them.

THE councilmanic Committee on Rules held a meeting on Saturday afternoon and decided upon a set of rules to be reported to Councils for-day for action. There are no important changes from the rules of last year, but all are made to conform with the Wallace act.

THERE will be a public meeting of the Pittsburgh association for the Improvement of the Poor in Dr. Howard's church, this evening at 7:30 o'clock, when the report of the winter's work will be read. The public, and especially those interested in benevolent work, are earnestly requested to attend.

A YOUNG member of the bar has been detected in an attempt to suborn the seal of the Court of Common Pleas to a blank naturalization paper. He was discovered in the act by a clerk in the Prothonotary's office, who broke up his blank and reported him to the Prothonotary. Such sharp practitioners need looking after.

ON Friday evening last, at Emerald Hall, delegates from the various branches of the Emerald Beneficial Association, in this county, held a meeting and decided to form a county convention for the purpose of creating a fund for the benefit of sick and destitute members, and for the relief, also, of all worthy poor, irrespective of creed, color or nationality.

JOHN GERST, of Allegheny, is charged before Alderman Edgar, on oath of Henry Reiber, with larceny by bailee. The defendant alleges that he left a cow with the accused, with instructions to sell her for $46. The animal was sold, and Gerst paid over only $40, stating that was all he got. Mr. R. subsequently learned from the purchaser that he paid the accused $44. Held for a hearing.

A WAGON driven by Morris McGonnigle was smashed into several hundred pieces, Saturday evening, on Ohio street, Allegheny, by the running away of the horse attached thereto. At the furniture store of Mr. Freedman, near the corner of Cedar avenue, the vehicle struck a number of chairs, filling the air with fragments of kindling. A hydrant was broken completely off by contact with a wheel. The animal was captured near Chestnut street, having made the whole circuit of the city.

SUPERINTENTENT MCCREA, of the Middle Division, Pennsylvania Railroad, has issued an order for all freight train crews to be known by the number of the cabin to which they belong, and closing up each day's work at Harrisburg with through freight west, and at Altoona with Harrisburg freight east. The engines will be run first in and first out, the engineers and firemen not having their own engines as formerly, but going out on any locomotive marked for their cabin. Considerable interest is manifested among railroad men in the result of the new order of things.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

36 WEST DIAMOND 36,
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Grand Opening of the New York Dining Rooms.

BILL OF FARE THIS DAY.
Best cup of coffee in the city.
Soup—Mock turtle.
Roast—Beef and lamb, veal pie baked.
Vegatables—Mashed potatoes, Cape May tomatoes, baked parsnips, cold slaw, green peas.
Pastry—Pumpin pie, mince pie, bread pudding.
All the above for 25 cents: 25 cents!
Open day and night.
Don't forget the Big 36, West Diamond.
The cheapest and best dining rooms in the city of Pittsburgh. Oeffner & Wettons, proprietors.
A. M. WETTON,
General Manager.

Reduction in Carriage

repairs at L. Giesenkamp & Co.'s, successor to C. West & Co., at the old stand, Nos. 75, 77 and 79 Liberty street, foot of Fourth avenue.

Virginia Farms for Sale

and exchange. Get *Real Estate Bulletin* of W. Linhart, at office of J. S. Ferguson, No. 129 Fifth avenue, for a few days.

W. J. France, "the Grocer,"

has removed to No. 4 Diamond, Pittsburgh.

Reduction in Carriage

repairs at L. Giesenkamp & Co.'s, successors to C. West & Co., at the old stand, Nos. 75, 77 and 79 Liberty street, foot of Fourth avenue. M.W.S

Removal.

NIEMANN & AHLERS,

Merchant Tailors, have removed to 101 Smithfield street, third door from Fifth avenue. Howard Block.

Persons Wanting to Borrow Money

on mortgage are referred to the advertisement of A. H. Bauman, in the weekly columns. Mr. B. is not a "*curbstone broker*," but keeps a regular office, and pays a large license. Those who patronize him may rely upon being fairly dealt with.

A Rare Bargain.

A fine cabinet organ, in use but a short time, will be sold low and on terms to suit. Address Organ, COMMERCIAL office.

Grand Excursion

to the rich valleys and prairies along the Kansas Pacific Railway. Leaves Union Depot Tuesday, April 18, at 2:45 P. M. For full particulars apply early to Geo. Lower, Agent, at the St. Charles Hotel.

The Finest Cigars

in the market at 6 for 25 cents. "The Aroma" U. S. C. M.

LONGEST SPEECH ON RECORD.

A Man Talks Twenty-six Hours.

The longest speech on record is believed to have been that made by Mr. De Cosmos, in the Legislature of British Columbia, when a measure was pending whose passage would take from a great many settlers their lands. De Cosmos was in a hopeless minority. The job had been held back till the eve of the close of the session; unless legislation was taken before noon of the following day, the act of confiscation would fail. The day before the expiration of the limitation, De Cosmos got the floor about 10 A. M., and began a speech against the bill. Its friends cared little, for they supposed that by one or two o'clock he would be through, and the bill could be put on its passage. One o'clock came, and De Cosmos was speaking still—hadn't more than entered on his subject. Two o'clock—he was saying "In the second place." Three o'clock—he produced a fearful bundle of evidence, and insisted on reading it. The majority began to have a suspicion of the truth—he was going to speak till next noon and kill the bill. For awhile they made merry over it, but, as it came on to dusk, they began to get alarmed. They tried interruptions, but soon abandoned them, because each one afforded him a chance to digress and gain time. They tried to shout him down, but that gave him a breathing space, and, finally, they settled down to watch the combat between strength of will and weakness of body. They gave him no mercy. No adjournment for dinner, no chance to do more than wet his lips with water; no wandering from his subject; no sitting down. Twilight darkened; the gas was lit; members slipped out in relays, and returned to sleep in spots; De Cosmos went on. The speaker, to whom he was addressing himself, was alternately dozing, snoring and trying to look wide awake. Day dawned, and the majority no slipped out in squads to wash and breakfast, and the speaker still held on. It can't be said it was a very logical, eloquent, or sustained speech. There were digressions in it, repetitions also. But still the speaker kept on, and, at last, noon came to a baffled majority, livid with rage and impotence, and a single man, who was triumphant, though his voice had sunk to a husky whisper, his eyes were almost shut, and were bleared and bloodshot, his legs tottered under him, and his baked lips were cracked and smeared with blood. De Cosmos had spoken twenty-six hours and saved the settlers their lands!

A Whisky Punch Changed the Weather.

The widow O'Flaherty was rich, and she was known far and wide for her benevolence and deeds of charity. On a cold and stormy evening in January she summoned her servant man, Pat Murphy, to her presence; and told him to load up the wheelbarrow with food and take it over to the widow Wilaby's shanty to keep herself and the three dear little children from freezing. "But," said she, "stop a bit and make me a glass of whisky punch before you go." That being done, and the punch having been disposed of, the kind hearted widow countermanded the order, remarking that the weather had moderated and changed so much that there was no immediate danger of any one freezing that night. Moral—Charity is sometimes like a weathercock, subject to changes.

Missouri has paid this year $5,822 as bounty for wolf-scalps.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

A Brother Seeks to Avenge a Sister's Wrongs, and Meets His Death—The Seducer Dangerously Wounded.

ST. LOUIS, April 8.—About six o'clock this morning, a young man eighteen years old, named Shane, called at the house of W. W. Jilz, and charged him with the seduction of his sister, Maria L. Shane. An altercation occurred, and Shane shot Jilz, inflicting what is believed to be a mortal wound; Jilz then shot Shane, wounding him very seriously. The facts in the case are not all known yet, but it appears that Jilz did seduce Snane's sister, and subsequently produced an abortion upon her. Mrs. Shane, the mother of Maria, has a civil suit pending against Jilz for the seduction of her daughter, and a few days ago instituted criminal proceedings against him. Jilz is a wealthy man, but bears a very bad reputation, having been divorced in an alleged irregular way from one wife, and is now living apart from his second wife. Young Shane was shot four times, and has since died. Jilz was shot twice, once through the lungs, and lies in a very precarious condition.

LATER.—At the Coroner's inquest, this afternoon, on the body of young Samuel Shane, who was killed by W. W. Jilz this morning, Nora Jilz, neice of Jilz, testified that she lived with her uncle; that Shane came to the house this morning and said he must see Mr. Jilz on important business. She called her uncle, who was in bed, and he dressed and went down stairs. When in the hall Shane stated that his sister was confined last night, and charged Jilz with her ruin. Jilz said it was a lie, whereupon Shane shot him. Her uncle then grappled with Shane, who fired another shot. Jilz then drew his revolver and fired four shots at Shane, all of which took effect, and Shane fell to the floor, when she went for a doctor at her uncle's bidding. Jilz then went to his room, where he has since lain with a very dangerous wound in his lungs.

From other sources it is learned that some time last June Jilz advertised for a girl to do some office writing. Miss Shane applied for the situation and was engaged. The acquaintance thus made became intimate, and although Jilz was a married man, it is alleged he seduced the girl on promise of marriage. Last night the girl was confined, and when her brother Samuel, who was only seventeen years old, learned of her condition, the disgrace and ruin of his sister drove him nearly crazy, and he obtained a pistol, went to Jilz' house, charged him with the crime and met his death as above stated.

Boarding House Courtesies.

PROVIDENCE, April 8.—In a quarrel in a boarding house this afternoon Otto Louis Newman, a boarder, shot the proprietor, Nelson E. Blackman, three times, inflicting severe, though it is thought not dangerous, wounds. Newman, who was arrested, charges that Blackman was trying to throw him out of a third story window.

STATE NEWS.

There are 143,936 houses in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia police made 2,476 arrests in March.

There is much sickness in Johnstown, and frequent deaths.

The poor-box in a Williamsport church was robbed, the other day.

There were 179 seagoing vessels in port at Philadelphia on Saturday.

Lancaster is knocking at Congressional doors for a new postoffice building.

The new hospital at Wilkesbarre was occupied for the first time last week.

Northampton county has an intelligent Miss, aged ten years, weight 130 pounds.

Mrs. Anthony Bickel died in Reading last week, at the age of ninety-six years.

There were 283 interments at Williamsport during the year beginning with March 31st.

For the first time in eight or ten years the Beaver county jail has no prisoners.

A little girl named Gohl, was drowned in a barrel of water at Williamsport, a few days ago.

A young miner named Thomas Brennan was killed by a fall of roof near Scranton, on the 31st ult.

A sixteen year old York pedesterian is trying to walk fifty consecutive hours without sleep or rest.

Adam Waldor was found dead hanging by the neck, in a stable at Ashland, Schuylkill county, on the 31st ult.

The Philadelphia mint coined 4,600,040 pieces of money during the month of March, of a value of $1,324,910.

The Schuylkill Valley Agricultural Society, of Pottstown, offers $4,500 in premiums to be given at the spring fair.

Miss Emma Ritner, oldest daughter of ex Governor Ritner, was buried last week at Mount Rock, Cumberland county.

Mrs. D. W. Harshberger was found dead in her bed in Johnstown on Monday morning. Heart disease was the cause.

Herman M. Fetter, ex-member of the Legislature and ex-Sheriff of Lehigh county, died at West Bethlehem, on Wednesday of last week.

An Erie man has a coin supposed to be four thousand years old, and which has been handed down from father to son for sixteen generations.

A little son of Dr. Gosh, of Riverside, Northumberland county, was fatally scalded, a few days ago, by the upsetting of a bowl of boiling water.

A little child of Jacob Ream, of East Conemaugh, Cambria county, was found dead on Monday morning. No cause is known for its sudden demise.

Walter Berry, one of the burglars concerned in the recent burglary at Brownsville, Fayette county, has died from injuries received in the act of his capture.

A man from North Carolina lays claim to a portion of Philadelphia, including Fairmount Park. The suit can hardly be settled until after the Centennial—so the show will go on.

Mr. James Lytle, an old and prominent citizen of Erie, died suddenly on the 31st ult., of paralysis. He was collector of that port under Buchanan's administration. He was in his sixty-ninth year.

A child of George Rupp, living near Lebanon, lodged a peanut in its windpipe recently, which the